



Padre Island National Seashore  
**SandDollar**



**Friday, April 23, 2004**

---

## **Superintendent**

I am pleased to announce that Dimitra Guerrero has accepted the position as my assistant after Marilyn's retirement at the end of May. While it will not be easy to fill the large void after Marilyn leaves for her fishing paradise, I am excited to be able to work with Dimitra and am confident she will do a great job. Her selection was heartily endorsed by squad.

Everyone should go express their condolences to Randy.

Also would like to thank those of you who have been forwarding suggestions, they are helpful. Those ideas are being addressed by squad and change implemented.

Hope to see some submissions for the park photo contest that ends this Friday. It would be fun if the park signature photo was from one of our own.

It was great to see Jim Kobus back razzing folks at this week's desert send off for Connie. Welcome back Jim!

Stay safe; take care of each other and this place...

Sincerely,

Colin

Colin's schedule:

Friday, 4/23	– L. E. Training, 8-12; In the park 1 pm >>>
Monday, 4/26	– In the Park
Tuesday, 4/27	– On Travel to Phoenix, AZ
Wed., 4/28	– PHX; Attending SW Cluster Sups meeting
Thurs., 4/29	– PHX; “ “ “ “ “
Friday, 4/30	– On Travel; Return to Corpus Christi

## *Safety Notes--*

*Your contributions are greatly appreciated for the SandDollar and the safety bulletin board. Please send safety contributions to Pat.*

*Let's continue to encourage each other to be safe.*

*Make it a safe day.*

## **Administration**

TSP Open Season Has Started! The Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) open season began April 15 and will end June 30, 2004. During the open season, you may begin contributing to the TSP or change the amount of your TSP contributions. During this open season, employees covered by FERS may elect to contribute to the TSP up to 14% of the basic pay they earn each pay period; employees covered by CSRS may elect to contribute up to 9% of the basic pay they earn each pay period.

### TEL Course

Apr 26 NPS Recreation & Preservation Programs  
**The trailer will be used for TEL training on Apr 26.**

### UPCOMING TEL EVENTS:

DATE	DAY	BROADCAST	TIME
11-May	Tuesday	<b>The Interpretive Analysis Model for Supervisors</b>	12:00-4:00pm
12-May	Wednesday	attendance is required for both sessions to receive credit	
13-May	Thursday	<b>DOI Annual Ethics</b>	?
17-May	Monday	<b>Retirement Planning for New Employees</b>	2:00-4:00pm
20-May	Thursday	<b>Managing Workers Compensation Cases - Part 2</b>	?
25-May	Tuesday	<b>Preparing &amp; Presenting an Effective Interpretive Talk</b>	12:00-4:00pm
26-May	Wednesday	<b>Presentation Techniques</b>	12:00-4:00pm
27-May	Thursday	<b>Heat Loss Prevention</b>	?
3-Jun	Thursday	<b>The Interpretive Analysis Model</b>	12:00-4:00pm
8-Jun	Tuesday	<b>Interpretive Techniques/Create Opportunities for Connection</b>	12:00-4:00pm
10-Jun	Thursday	<b>Administrative Grievances-What You Don't Know Could Hurt You</b>	2:00-4:30pm
15-Jun	Tuesday	<b>Informal Interpretation</b>	12:00-4:00pm
16-Jun	Wednesday	<b>The Interpretive Process Model</b>	12:00-4:00pm
22-Jun	Tuesday	<b>Partnership Agreements</b>	?
13-Jul	Tuesday	<b>Grant Proposals for External Funding</b>	?
19-Jul	Monday	<b>NPS Recreation &amp; Preservation Programs</b>	1:30-3:30pm
10-Aug	Tuesday	<b>Dealing with Misconduct &amp; Progressive Discipline</b>	10:00-12:00pm
10-Aug	Tuesday	<b>Resolving Performance Issues</b>	2:00-4:00pm
26-Aug	Thursday	<b>Retirement Planning for New Employees</b>	2:00-4:00pm

## Facility Management

Luis has rescheduled his FMSS training from May to July. Dale Sorrell from DSC will be here in May to review the two-way radio installation. Luis is working on the Radio Tower Scope Of Work Plan for it's replacement this year.

Luis is having to take three FMSS/FCAS internet training sessions required by region before attending the Denver training in July.

The fire sprinkler contractor will probably start working on the upstairs part of the Headquarters building. I will try and get a schedule as to which offices will be impacted first.

The crew has done a great job installing the Vault Toilet tanks at BIB and should start with the building next week.

The next Americorps team has arrived and will be helping out with a variety of projects. They will be in the park for approximately four weeks. Say Hi! to them if when you see them around.

## **Interpretation**

On Wednesday, April 21<sup>st</sup>, we received a donation of 900 trash bags from Home Depot.

Additionally, on that same day, Phil learned via e-mail that the PMIS request to the Volunteer and Partnership fund for \$4,800 for promoting four-wheel-drive beach clean-ups, has been approved.

## **Protection**

The Division of Visitor and Resource Protection is sad to announce the resignation of Joe Hanisco, Entrance Station VUA. Joe has

decided to pursue other interests. His last day will be June 12, 2004. Good Luck Joe!!

Physical Efficiency Batteries (PEB) will be conducted on Saturday, April 24, 2004. Please call Randy Larson if you are interested in participating.

All employees are reminded to lock the headquarters gate if they are driving out of the parking lot after normal working hours. The gate has been left open several times recently. Rangers and/or dispatch will lock the gate at the end of their shift each day per established protocol. After dispatch goes off the air, everyone entering or leaving the vehicle compound is asked to please remember to close the gate behind them.

## Resources Management

### Projects:

- Dr. Gillian Bowser with the Gulf Coast Cooperative Ecosystem Study Unit stationed at Texas A&M University visited the park on Monday, April 19. She is currently working with division to get student interns to help with resource management projects. Possible projects included a comprehensive marine debris survey and GIS projects.
- There has been some changes in the division radio and phone numbers. Katie's radio number has changed from 504 to 503 and her ext. 266 is now 267. Katie K.'s radio number is 505 and Larissa's is 506. They can both be reached at extension 267.
- We will be mist-netting on Monday. Anyone interested in helping contact Darrell or Katie. We will open the nets at 7 am and run them until noon or possibly later depending on the amount of birds collected.
- We will be sampling the washover basin at the 46-MM Wednesday, April 28. Anyone interested in helping please contact Katie.

### Oil and Gas

- All Production equipment has been removed from the Dunn-Murdoch site at Yarborough Pass.
- Arlene has been assisting Big Thicket with an Environmental Assessment for their Oil and Gas Program.
- Oil & Gas operations are continuing in the park. There have been delays due to environmental conditions. The road is 90% completed and work has begun on the pad. With luck, the rig should be in next weekend.

## **Division of Sea Turtle Science and Recovery**

**CLUTCH 2 FOUND!** A headstarted turtle nested sometime between 5:30 and 7:30 pm on Jamaica Beach, Galveston Island, Texas. The Jamaica Beach Police Department notified Ben Higgins from the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Laboratory in Galveston, Texas about the observation and held the turtle on the beach until Ben arrived. This turtle had been hatched in 1991 in Mexico, headstarted at the NMFS Laboratory for nearly a year, and released into the Gulf of Mexico on 5/19/1992 offshore from Galveston. Ben retrieved the 83 eggs from the nest and transported them to the park for incubation. The hatchlings from this second Kemp's ridley clutch found on the Texas coast this year will be released at the park sometime between June 2 and June 8.

Park staff and volunteers are continuing patrols and are working hard to see who will be the first one to find a nest here this year! Patrols of Mustang Island, South Padre Island, and Boca Chica Beach started during the last two weeks.

Eight stranded sea turtles were documented at the park on April 18-19, including four small loggerheads, two large loggerheads, and two large ridleys. A few weeks ago small loggerheads were also found stranded at the park, in association with the seaweed that had washed ashore. These small loggerheads blend in very well with the seaweed and most are being found alive by people walking on the beach. Their hopes for survival are very good when they are promptly rescued and taken to the ARK rehabilitation facility.

However, if they are not found or are placed back in the water, they will likely die. Thank you to all of the people from various divisions that have helped with reporting and transporting the turtles.

###